CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for controlling data within an apparatus 302 of an user of the data in a distributed processing system by checking a valid date of a copy of the data in response to a request for the data from an operator or a program, providing a requester of said copy if it is valid, generating a new copy by reading in a latest data from an apparatus 303 holding an original data and providing said copy if said copy is invalid, comprising:
   a method for controlling data, comprising:
   (a) a process 722 for revising a record of corresponding valid date by receiving an instruction for revising the valid date of the copy held by said apparatus 713.

2. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 1, comprising:
   (b) a process 511 for recording "a designation of an original data, a version distinguish data of the original data, the valid date" in correspondence with the copy of the data held by said apparatus 302.

3. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 2, comprising:
   (c) a process (716, 718) for specifying the copy of a version that is equivalent to or older than the version corresponding to a designation of the original data included in the instruction for revising the valid date as well as to the version distinguish data of the original data, and rewriting 722 said valid date corresponding to said copy.

4. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 1, comprising:
   (d) a process for operating 804 the polling towards said computer 305 for controlling the valid date of the data, and receiving 713 the instruction for revising the valid date.

5. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 4, comprising:
   (e) a process 713 for collectively receiving plural instructions for revising the valid dates.

6. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 4, comprising:
   (f) a process 712 for notifying a previous polling time to the apparatus 305 for controlling the valid date of the data.

7. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 4, comprising:

21

(g) a process (802, 803, 807) for operating the polling at a next time a connection towards Internet is established if the connection towards Internet has not been set up at an expected polling time.

8. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 4, comprising:

(h) a process 711 for notifying the apparatus 305 for controlling the valid date of the original data of the designation of the original data of the copy that is control target by the valid date within the apparatus 302.

9. The method for controlling data as defined in Claim 8, comprising:

(i) a process 711 for notifying the apparatus 305 for controlling the valid date of the original data of the designation of the original data including the designation of the original data of plural copies that are control target by the valid date within the apparatus 302.

10. A method for controlling the valid date of the data in the apparatus 305 for notifying the revision in the valid date of the data within the distributed processing system, comprising:

the method for controlling data, comprising:

(j) a process 1004 for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data, the valid date" of the data of which the valid date is revised as the control label; and

(k) a process (1111, 1112) for retrieving the control label among said control labels for the original data designated by the apparatus 302 of the data user, and sending 1113 said retrieved control label to the apparatus 302 of the data user.

11. The method for controlling the valid date of the data within the apparatus 305 for notifying the revision in the valid date of the data in the distributed processing system, comprising:

the method for controlling data, comprising:

(l) a process (1004, 1005) for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data, the valid date" of the data of which the valid date is revised as the control label as well as the time when the control label is registered; and

(m) a process (1102, 1105, 1111, 1113) for retrieving the control label among said control labels which corresponds to the designation of the original data indicated by the apparatus 302 of the data

user and is recorded after the time indicated by the apparatus of data user, and sending it to the apparatus 302 of the data user.

12. An apparatus 302 of the user of the data within the distributed processing system which checks the valid date of the copy of the data in response to the request for the data from the operator or the program, provides the requester of said copy if it is valid, generates the new copy by reading in the latest data from the apparatus 303 holding the original data, and provides said copy if said copy is invalid, comprising:

an apparatus for controlling data, comprising:

    (n) a communication control unit 402 receiving 713 the instruction for revising the valid date of the copy of the data; and

    (o) an web data control unit 410 operating the process 511 for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data of the original data, the valid date" and the process (716, 718, 722) for revising the record of the valid date of the version that is equivalent to or older than the version corresponding to the received instruction for revision.

13. The apparatus 302 of the user of the data within the distributed processing system which checks the valid date of the copy of the data in response to the request for the data from the operator or the program, provides the requester of said copy if it is valid, generates the new copy by reading in the latest data from the apparatus 303 holding the original data, and provides said copy if said copy is invalid, comprising:

the apparatus for controlling data, comprising:

    (p) the communication control unit 402 operating a process 804 for operating the polling towards the computer 305 for controlling the valid date, sending 712 the previous polling time, and receiving 713 the instruction for revising the valid date of the copy of the data.

14. The apparatus 305 for notifying the revision in the valid date of the data within the distributed processing system, comprising:

the apparatus for controlling data, comprising:

    (q) "a reception unit for revised control label 903" operating the processes (1102, 1105, 1111, 1113) for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data, the valid date" of the data of which the valid date is revised as well as the time

when the control label is registered (1004,1005), and retrieving the record among said records which corresponds to the original data indicated by the apparatus 302 of the data user and is recorded after the time indicated by the apparatus 302 of the data user, and sending it to the apparatus 302 of the data user.

15. a computer-readable recording media recording a program that has realized the method for controlling the data in the apparatus 302 of the user of the data within the distributed processing system by checking the valid date of the copy of the data in response to the request for the data from the operator or the program, providing the requester of said copy if it is valid, generating the new copy by reading in the latest data from the apparatus 303 holding the original data, and providing said copy if said copy is invalid, comprising:

the computer-readable recording media recording the program that has realized the method for controlling the data, comprising:

(b)   the process 511 for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data of the original data, the valid date" in correspondence with the copy of the data held by said apparatus;

(a)   the process 713 for receiving the instruction for revising the valid date of the copy held by said apparatus; and

(c)   the process (716, 718) for specifying the copy of the version that is equivalent to or older than the version corresponding to the designation of the original data included in the instruction for revising the valid date as well as to the version distinguish data of the original data and rewriting said valid date corresponding to said copy 722.

16. the computer-readable recording media recording a program that has realized the method for controlling the data in the apparatus 302 of the user of the data within the distributed processing system by checking the valid date of the copy of the data in response to the request for the data from the operator or the program, providing the requester of said copy if it is valid, generating the new copy by reading in the latest data from the apparatus 303 holding the original data, and providing said copy if said copy is invalid, comprising:

the computer-readable recording media recording the program that has

24

realized the method for controlling the data, comprising:

    (d)   the process 722 for revising the corresponding valid date by receiving the instruction for revising the valid date of the copy held by said apparatus 713;

    (e)   the process for operating the polling to said computer 305 for controlling the valid date 804, and receiving the instruction for revising the valid date 713;

    (f)   the process 712 for notifying the previous polling time to said apparatus 305 for controlling the valid date.

17.The computer-readable recording media recording the program that has realized the method for controlling the valid date of the data in said apparatus 305 for notifying the revision in the valid date to said apparatus 302 of the user of the data of the distributed processing system, comprising:

the computer-readable recording media recording the program that has realized the method for controlling the data, comprising:

    (j)   the process 1004 for recording "the designation of the original data, the version distinguish data, the valid date" of the data of which the valid date is révised as the control label; and

    (k)   the process for retrieving (1111, 1112) the control label among said control labels for the original data designated by the apparatus 302 of the data user, and sending 1113 said retrieved control label to the apparatus 302 of the data user.

25